# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1379
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
PRIVATIZATION OF AM RADIO SECTOR
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**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India as a member of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has decided to open up radio based information services in rural areas and semi-urban areas through issuing licences to private parties ;

(b) whether as in the case of FM stations, the Government will allow private participation in the AM radio sector ;

(c) whether any decision in this regard has been taken ; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will benefit the masses in rural and semi-urban area of the country ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) India is Member of the International Telecommunications Union, a coordinating agency under the aegis of the United Nations. As per the Radio Regulations of the ITU, specific bands have been allocated to FM sound broadcasting in various regions of the world. Government of India, on its own, had decided to open the FM broadcasting activity to the private sector in areas like music, entertainment, information and education. In the first phase, the expansion of FM Radio broadcasting services, including value- added services, was approved for setting up of 108 FM Radio Stations/Channels in 40 centers of the Country.

(b), (c) & (d) : At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.